

Delaware Conservation Districts announce annual conservation poster contest with entries due by Oct. 20

This year's theme: 'Healthy Soils Are Full of Life'

DOVER – The Kent, New Castle, and Sussex Conservation Districts are now accepting entries in their annual conservation poster contest for K-12 students in Delaware's public, charter, private, or home schools. Posters will be judged on the 2017 theme, "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life," in the following grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. First, second and third place winners in each category will receive a cash prize of \$50, \$25, and \$15, respectively. The state-level winning posters also will receive a cash award from the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD).

The deadline for poster entries is Friday, Oct. 20. In addition to regular posters, a special category for computer-generated posters is open to all high school students in grades 9-12 who take a graphics art/computer class or program of study. These entries will be judged at the county/state level only and will not be eligible for national judging.

Each Conservation District will submit first-place posters in each grade category for judging at the state level. In the event that an insufficient number of posters are received at the county level, county level judging will be eliminated and all posters will be judged at the state level. First-place posters in each grade level will be entered into the national conservation district poster contest, with winners to be displayed during the National Association of Conservation

District's conference in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 27-31, 2018.

The student's name, grade level, teacher, and school must be clearly and legibly printed on the back of the poster. Posters must be hand-delivered or mailed flat in time to meet the deadline to the Conservation District office in the county in which the student resides. Addresses are as follows:

- New Castle Conservation District, 2430 Old County Road, Newark, DE 19702
- Kent Conservation District, 800 Bay Road, Suite 2, Dover, DE 19901
- Sussex Conservation District, 21315 Berlin Road, Unit 4, Georgetown, DE 19947

The annual conservation poster contest provides students with an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water, and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state associations, auxiliaries, and agencies. The contest follows the annual stewardship theme developed and sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

"Healthy Soils Are Full of Life," this year's theme, reminds us of the important benefits that healthy and productive soils provide to us for food, fiber, habitat, and clean water. For more information and educational resources about the theme and poster contest guidelines, please visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>.

For a flyer with Delaware's poster contest guidelines, please visit www.newcastleconservationdistrict.org, www.kentcd.org or www.sussexconservation.org. For more information, please contact Rick Mickowski at 302-832-3100 ext. 8979, or by email at Rick.Mickowski@delaware.gov.

The annual poster contest is sponsored by DNREC and the

Delaware Association of Conservation Districts. DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship provides technical and financial assistance to Delaware's farmers, landowners, and homeowners to protect and enhance the state's soil and water resources, mainly through the Division's Delaware Conservation Districts staff.

Vol. 47, No. 214

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